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U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.
Forest Service

Camp Fires.

Class SK 601

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Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.

Misc. O–8

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

FOREST SERVICE.

HENRY S. GRAVES, Forester.

CAMP FIRES.

The law imposes a fine of $50 for leaving a camp fire unextinguished, even though it does not escape and set fire to the forest. There is also a penalty for allowing fire to escape.

Build a safe camp fire, in accordance with one of the models on pages 2 and 3, and put it out with water and earth before you leave it.

Be careful with burning matches and tobacco.

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Camp Fire-Places.

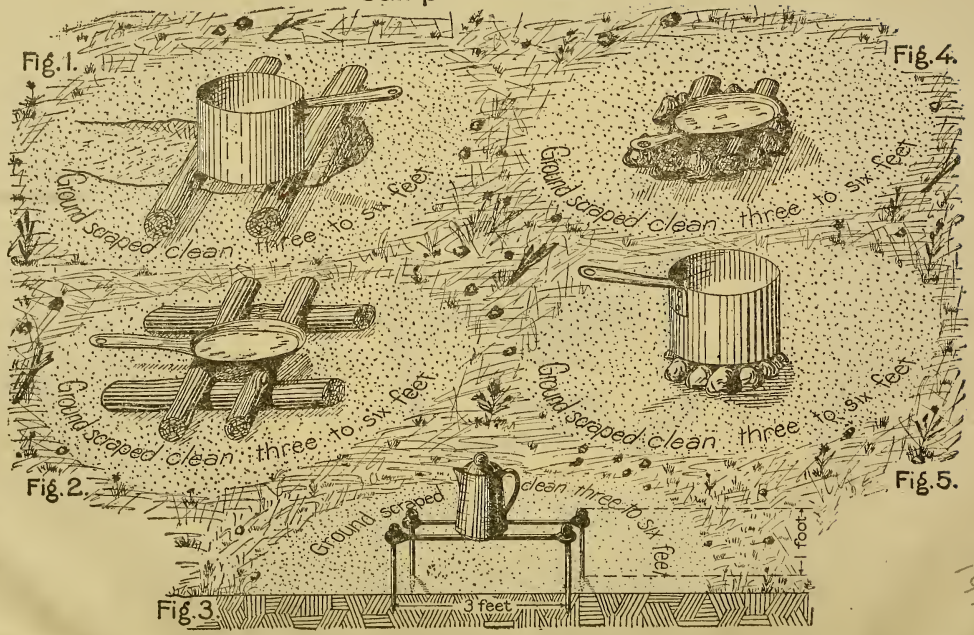
Fig. 1.
Ground scraped clean three to six feet
Fig. 2.
Ground scraped clean three to six feet
Fig. 3.
Ground scraped clean three to six feet
1 foot
3 feet
Fig. 4.
Ground scraped clean three to six feet
Fig. 5.
Ground scraped clean three to six feet

PLATE I.

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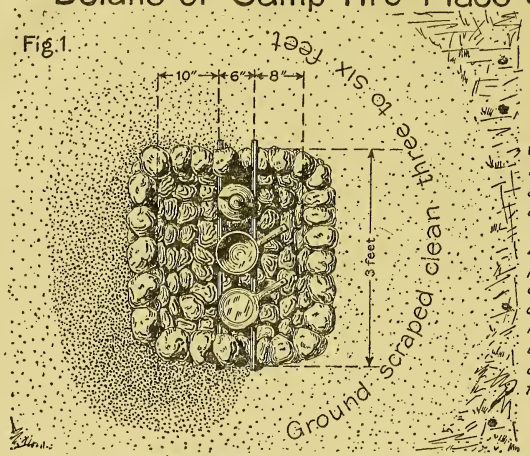
Details of Camp Fire-Place Construction.



Note.

The raised back prevents the wind from blowing smoke and fire out of the hole by causing a certain amount of draft.

Half-inch gas-pipe can be used for fire-irons. A piece of sheet-iron placed on top of these irons and one or two joints of four-inch pipe placed at the back, will increase the draft and prevent pots, &c. from becoming smoked.

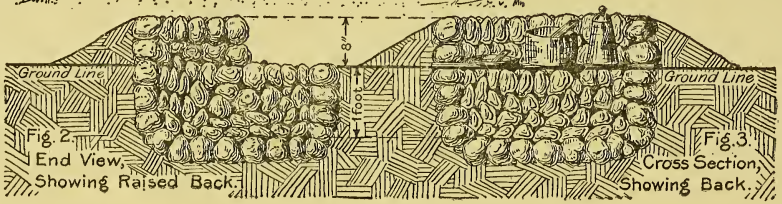


Fig. 2. End View, Showing Raised Back.

Fig. 3. Cross Section, Showing Back.

PLATE II.

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HOW TO BUILD CAMP FIRES.

(See illustrations on pp. 2 and 3.)

Camp stoves should be taken into the woods whenever they can be transported. They are safer than open fires, more convenient, require less fuel, and do not blacken the cooking utensils. Collapsible sheet-iron stoves may be obtained.

In the absence of a stove an open fire must be built. A safe and serviceable fireplace can be made of rocks placed in a small circle so as to support the utensils. (Pl. I, figs. 4 and 5.) Where rocks are not obtainable, poles may be used as in Plate I, figure 2.

For permanent camps it pays to build a stone fireplace. One is shown in Plate II. A piece of sheet iron will prevent the blackening of the pans and makes a better draft.

For temporary camps the fire should be built as follows:

Dig a hole about a foot deep and about 3 or 4 feet in diameter. Shovel away the side toward the wind. Lay green poles across the hole to support the pots and pans, and build the fire underneath. (Pl. I, fig. 1.)

Fire irons are often a great convenience. A piece of three-eighths-inch round iron 4 feet long is bent at right angles a foot from each end and the ends are sharpened. Two of these irons are placed side by side, the ends are driven into the ground and the fire kindled beneath them. Instead of being made in one piece, the pegs and cross-bars may be connected by rings in the ends. (Pl. I, fig. 3.) They will then fold and be easier to pack.

Camp fires should never be larger than necessary, and the utmost care should be taken to prevent sparks from being carried into the neighboring forest. Clear away the litter for a considerable space about the fire. And be sure to **put the fire out** before you leave it.

A shovel is nearly as important a tool as an ax in camping. Do not count on finding one along the way, but put one in your outfit.

During wet weather look for kindling in burned sugar pine or yellow pine butts or in pine knots. The under side of a leaning tree will usually contain dry material. Dead branches—of manzanita, etc.—that have not yet fallen are drier than those on the ground. Bark from fir snags is excellent fuel.

Where matches are scarce or when the weather is stormy, first light a candle and kindle your fire from that.

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